

REMARKS

The present application was filed on June 6, 2005, and claims priority to International Application No. PCT/US02/40810, filed December 20, 2002.

The present application was filed with claims 1-25. Claims 1-10 and 15-25 were previously canceled by Applicants. Claims 11-14 remain pending. Claim 11 is the only pending independent claim.

Claims 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,377,544 (hereinafter "Muthukrishnan") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,401,147 (hereinafter "Sang"), U.S. Patent No. 6,259,402 (hereinafter "Asai") and U.S. Patent No. 7,215,641 (hereinafter "Bechtolsheim").

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Muthukrishnan, Sang, Asai and Bechtolsheim in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0215593 (hereinafter "Wang").

In the present Office Action, Applicants have elected to amend claims 11 and 14. Applicants are not conceding in this application that these claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these claims and/or other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Claim 11, as amended, includes a limitation directed to pushing the packet flow in the distributed network such that packets are moved from a queue with a higher height to a queue with a lower height, based at least in part on respective energy reserves associated with affected nodes and an amount of energy required to move packets between the affected nodes, in a manner that substantially minimizes power dissipation at the affected nodes in order to prevent exhaustion of any energy reserve associated with an affected node.

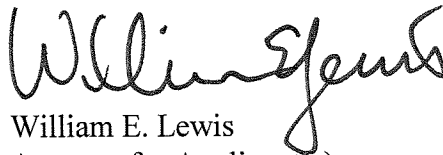
Claim 14, as amended, recites a limitation wherein the injecting, equalizing, pushing and absorbing steps are performed for a number of rounds such that throughput requirements are substantially satisfied while substantially maximizing a time period prior to exhaustion of an energy reserve associated with any node of the distributed network.

Support for these amendments may be found in the specification at, for example, page 9, lines 6-23.

It is believed that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the limitations of amended independent claim 11. Dependent claims 12-14 are patentable at least because of their dependency on claim 11. Furthermore, one or more of these claims defines separately patentable subject matter. For example, it is believed that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the limitations of amended dependent claim 14.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that amended claims 11-14 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the present rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being more prominent.

William E. Lewis  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 39,274  
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP  
90 Forest Avenue  
Locust Valley, NY 11560  
(516) 759-2946

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